UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/C.1/L.202
4 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirty-third session
Vienna, 12-23 February 1996*

PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Election of Chairman.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Statement by the Chairman.
4. General exchange of views.
5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system.
6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
7. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, *inter alia*, applications for developing countries.
8. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
9. Space debris.
10. Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.
11. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.

---

*The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirty-eighth session, agreed that the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies should be conducted with a view to concluding the sessions of those bodies as early as practicable without prejudice to their giving full consideration to the items on their agendas (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), para. 168).

**Items 5 to 9 should be given priority in accordance with paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995.

12. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine.

13. Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme.

14. Matters relating to planetary exploration.

15. Matters relating to astronomy.

16. The theme fixed for special attention at the 1996 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Utilization of micro- and small satellites for the expansion of low-cost space activities, taking into account the special needs of developing countries."

17. Other matters.

18. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

ANNOTATIONS

Item 1. Election of Chairman

1. The Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, John H. Carver (Australia), retired at the end of its thirty-second session. As reflected in paragraph 183 of its report,[1] the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirty-eighth session, noting that Germany had officially nominated as a candidate Dietrich Rex, expressed its hope that the new chairman of the Subcommittee would be elected by consensus by the Subcommittee at its thirty-third session.

Items 2, 3 and 4. Adoption of the agenda

Statement by the Chairman

General exchange of views

2. Following the adoption of the agenda by the Subcommittee, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Subcommittee which have taken place since its thirty-second session. After the Chairman's statement, the Subcommittee will organize a schedule of work (the indicative schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present annotated provisional agenda).

3. The general exchange of views will start during the morning meeting.

Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

4. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 50/27, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

(a) Report of the Expert on Space Applications

5. The views of the Subcommittee regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for the period 1994-1996 are set out in paragraphs 26 to 32 of the report on the work of its thirty-second session (A/AC.105/605). The views of the Committee on the report of the Subcommittee on this item are reflected in paragraphs 30 to 45 of the report of the Committee.[1] The General Assembly in paragraph 22 of its

resolution 50/27, endorsed the Programme for 1996, proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications in his report (see A/AC.105/595, sections I and III).

6. The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert covering the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications during 1995 and 1996, as well as the activities proposed for 1997 (A/AC.105/625). The report will also cover arrangements made by the Secretariat with other organs, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to use available resources and secure additional financial support for the Programme, as requested in paragraph 19 (c) of the report of the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its sixth session (A/AC.105/513, annex II). The report of the Expert will also provide the Subcommittee with an update on the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education.

7. In addition, the Subcommittee will have before it the following documents on training courses, conferences and workshops that were held in 1995: report of the United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on Applications of Space Techniques to Prevent and Combat Natural Disasters, held at Harare from 22 to 26 May (A/AC.105/610); report on the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Space Technology for Health Care and Environmental Monitoring in the Developing World, held at Oslo from 28 September to 1 October (A/AC.105/612); report on the United Nations/European Space Agency training course on the use of ERS-1 data for the mapping and inventory of natural resources in Africa, held at Libreville from 15 to 19 May (A/AC.105/613); report of the United Nations/European Space Agency symposium on space technology for improving life on Earth, held at Graz, Austria, from 11 to 14 September (A/AC.105/615); report on the results of the questionnaire on the impact of the United Nations/Sweden annual course series on remote sensing education for educators (A/AC.105/616); report on the Fifth United Nations Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held at Stockholm and Kiruna, Sweden, from 2 May to 9 June (A/AC.105/617); *Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications: Selected Papers on Remote Sensing, Satellite Communications and Space Science, 1996* (A/AC.105/621); report of the United Nations/European Space Agency regional conference on space technology for sustainable development and communications, held at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 30 October to 3 November (A/AC.105/622); report of the United Nations/European Space Agency training course for countries in Asia and the Pacific on applications of ERS-1 data for natural resources, renewable energy and the environment, held at Frascati, Italy, from 13 to 25 November (A/AC.105/623); and report of the United Nations/International Centre for Theoretical Physics workshop on optics in space and science, held at Trieste, Italy, from 20 to 25 November (A/AC.105/624).

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

8. The seventeenth Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities will be held at Vienna from 7 to 9 February 1996. The report of that Meeting will be provided in document A/AC.105/630. The report on coordination will be contained in the document entitled "Coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programmes of work for 1996 and 1997 and future years" (A/AC.105/631).

Item 6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

9. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 50/27, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

10. The views of the Subcommittee regarding the item were provided in paragraphs 18 to 53 of its report (A/AC.105/605). The views of the Committee on the report of the Subcommittee on the item are contained in paragraphs 25 to 53 of the report of the Committee.[1]

11. Attention is also drawn to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/50/384).

12. The General Assembly, in paragraph 19 of its resolution 50/27, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Working Group of the Whole should be reconvened by the Subcommittee at its thirty-third session.

13. The General Assembly, in paragraph 20 of its resolution 50/27, also endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in paragraphs 7 to 60 of the report of the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/605, annex II). In response to the requests in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report of the Working Group of the Whole, the Subcommittee will have before it documents A/AC.105/614 and Add.1, which will contain information on national and international space activities submitted by Member States. A number of reports from international organizations with space-related activities will be before the Subcommittee; these will include information concerning space activities that were or could be the subject of greater international cooperation, in response to the request in paragraph 10 of the report of the Working Group of the Whole.

14. The Subcommittee will have before it the following technical studies that were requested by the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/571, annex II, para. 17): "Use of remote sensing technologies for environmental applications, particularly in support of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" (A/AC.105/632); and "Microsatellites and small satellites: current projects and future perspectives for international cooperation" (A/AC.105/611).

15. In considering agenda item 6, the Subcommittee should note that the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/27, considered the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraph 18 of that resolution to be particularly urgent.

Item 7. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, *inter alia*, applications for developing countries

16. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 50/27, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

Item 8. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

17. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 50/27, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

18. The General Assembly decided, in paragraph 21 of its resolution 50/27, that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space during its thirty-third session. In accordance with the recommendation of the Subcommittee at its thirty-second session (A/AC.105/605, para. 74), the time allocated to the topic in both the Subcommittee and the Working Group has been adjusted taking into consideration that no initiative for a revision of the principles has been taken so far. The Subcommittee will have before it a number of documents submitted by Member States to the Secretary-General regarding national and international research concerning the safety of nuclear-powered satellites in response to the General Assembly's invitation contained in paragraph 21 of its resolution 50/27.

Item 9. Space debris

19. The General Assembly, in paragraphs 14 and 17 of its resolution 50/27, welcomed the decision and endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider this item on a priority basis.

20. The General Assembly, in paragraph 16 of its resolution 50/27, agreed with the endorsement by the Committee of the multi-year work plan for consideration of the agenda item on space debris approved by the Subcommittee at its thirty-second session and also agreed that the work plan should be implemented with flexibility. In paragraph 79 of its report,[1] the Committee agreed that, notwithstanding the selection of a specific topic for the thirty-third session of the Subcommittee, delegations wishing to address the Subcommittee at that time on other aspects of scientific research related to space debris should be free to do so.

21. Attention is drawn to the text of the multi-year work plan (A/AC.105/605, para. 83), which indicates that each session of the Subcommittee should review current operational debris mitigation practices and consider future mitigation methods with regard to cost efficiency.

22. The Subcommittee will have before it a report on steps taken by space agencies for reducing the growth or damage potential of space debris (A/AC.105/620), which was prepared by the Secretariat in response to the agreement of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/605, para. 80) and subsequently of the Committee, as reflected in paragraph 76 of its report,[1] that it could be desirable to compile such information.

Item 10. Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space

23. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 50/27, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 11. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

24. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 50/27, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 12. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine

25. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 50/27, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 13. Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth's environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme

26. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 50/27, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 14. Matters relating to planetary exploration

27. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 50/27, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 15. Matters relating to astronomy

28. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 50/27, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 16. The theme fixed for special attention at the 1996 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Utilization of micro- and small satellites for the expansion of low-cost space activities, taking into account the special needs of developing countries"

29. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 50/27, endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee, which had been endorsed by the Committee in paragraph 102 of its report,[1] that the theme fixed for the special attention of the Subcommittee at its current session should be "Utilization of micro- and small satellites for the expansion of low-cost space activities, taking into account the special needs of developing countries".

30. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/27, paragraph 17, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), in liaison with Member States, have been invited to arrange a symposium on that theme, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the thirty-third session of the Subcommittee, at the end of its meetings, in order to complement its discussions (see note a/ in the annex to the present annotated provisional agenda). A detailed programme of the symposium will be issued in due course.

Item 17. Other matters

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

31. The General Assembly, in paragraph 32 of its resolution 50/27, agreed that a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could be convened before the turn of the present century and that, prior to recommending a date for the conference, there should be a consensus recommendation on the agenda, venue and funding of the conference.

32. The General Assembly, in paragraph 33 of its resolution 50/27, recommended that the Subcommittee at its thirty-third session, should continue the work it had conducted at its thirty-second session, taking into particular account the report of its Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/605, annex II), with the aim to complete the development and refinement of a framework that would allow an evaluation of proposals by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session, and that that framework should allow for the consideration of all possibilities of achieving the final objectives of such a conference. In paragraph 34 of that resolution, the Assembly agreed that on the basis of the work conducted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-third session, the Committee, at its thirty-ninth session, should consider all issues related to the possible convening of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with a view to making a final recommendation to the Assembly at that session of the Committee.

(b) Space and Earth environment

33. The General Assembly, in paragraph 36 of its resolution 50/27, recommended that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment.

34. The General Assembly, in paragraph 37 of the same resolution, considered that it was essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, and called for, among other things, the

continuation of national research on that question. In this connection, the Subcommittee will have before it document A/AC.105/619, containing the contributions received by the Secretariat from Member States. Additional contributions that might be received by the Secretariat after the preparation of the present annotated provisional agenda would be brought to the attention of the Subcommittee.

(c) Other reports

35. The Subcommittee will also have before it a document entitled *Highlights in Space: Progress in Space Science, Technology and Applications, International Cooperation and Space Law, 1995* - reports submitted by COSPAR and IAF and published as an integrated document (A/AC.105/618).

36. Additional reports may be submitted to the Subcommittee as available.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20).

Annex

INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK*

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Monday, 12 February 1996	Item 1 - Election of Chairman Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda Item 3 - Statement by the Chairman Item 4 - General exchange of views	Item 4 - General exchange of views Item 16 - Utilization of micro- and small satellites a/
Tuesday, 13 February 1996	Item 4 - General exchange of views Item 5 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications	Item 6 - UNISPACE b/ Item 16 - Utilization of micro- and small satellites a/
Wednesday, 14 February 1996	Item 5 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 6 - UNISPACE b/	Item 5 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 6 - UNISPACE b/
Thursday, 15 February 1996	Item 5 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 6 - UNISPACE b/	Item 10 - Space transportation systems Item 11 - Geostationary orbit
Friday, 16 February 1996	Item 12 - Life sciences Item 14 - Planetary exploration	Item 12 - Life sciences Item 14 - Planetary exploration
Monday, 19 February 1996	Item 9 - Space debris Item 9 - Space debris	Item 9 - Space debris Item 8 - Nuclear power sources c/
Tuesday, 20 February 1996	Item 9 - Space debris Item 8 - Nuclear power sources c/	Item 7 - Remote sensing Item 13 - Earth environment
Wednesday, 21 February 1996	Item 7 - Remote sensing Item 13 - Earth environment	Item 6 - UNISPACE b/
Thursday, 22 February 1996	Item 15 - Astronomy Item 17 - Other matters	Item 17 - Other matters Item 18 - Report to the Committee
Friday, 23 February 1996	Item 18 - Report to the Committee	Item 18 - Report to the Committee

a/ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/27, paragraph 17 (b) (vii), a symposium on the theme for special attention at the thirty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, "Utilization of micro- and small satellites for the expansion of low-cost space activities, taking into account the needs of developing countries", organized by COSPAR and IAF, will be held on 12 and 13 February 1996, after the afternoon meeting of the Subcommittee.

b/ The Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be reconvened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/27, paragraph 19, will meet during the period allocated for agenda items 5 and 6. Arrangements will be made for informal meetings of the Working Group of the Whole as required. The possible convening of a third UNISPACE, to be discussed under agenda item 17, will also be considered during the time allocated for agenda items 5 and 6. The Subcommittee will take up agenda item 6 and its discussion of the possible convening of a third UNISPACE again on 21 February before adopting the report of the Working Group of the Whole.

c/ The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space will meet during the period allocated for agenda item 8. Arrangements will be made for informal meetings of the Working Group as required. The Subcommittee will take up agenda item 8 again on 20 February to adopt the report of the Working Group.

*The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirty-eighth session, agreed that Member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), para. 169 (b)).